

Our Lady Star Of The Sea Catholic Church

The Presbytery, 22 Devon Place, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4DR
 Rev. Fr Michael 'Tega Akpoghiran, O.P. Tel: 01792 367283
 Rev. Fr Clement Oloruntoba, O.P. (Singleton Hospital Chaplain) 07459335606
 Rev. Fr Victor Ogundipe, O.P.
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St David's Catholic Primary School
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 Tel 01792 512212
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 'Love God, Love Learning, Love Life'

SOME MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE LIVESTREAMED

Date & Liturgical Celebration	Time	Mass Intention
Sunday 10th January The Baptism of the Lord	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Parish Community Intention of the Donor For the Intention of Philomena O'Connell (M & A O'C, K A, S W) World Leaders Our Lady's Lamp: Brian Fouracre (Anniversary)
Monday 11 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	For the intention of Beryl Brennan (C B)
Tuesday 12 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Len Wellington, RIP (T O'D)
Wednesday 13 th <i>St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Covid-19 Patients
Thursday 14 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	For the Intention of Fr Victor (M.E.E.T)
Friday 15 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Peter Tenant, RIP Birthday Thanksgiving (B T)
Saturday 16 th <i>Votive Memorial of Our Lady on Saturday</i>	10.00am (Livestreamed)	For the Intention of Voke Egagifo
Sunday 17th January 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	NHS Workers Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP Mike D'Rozario, RIP Anniversary (S & M G) Parish Community

'THANK YOU' TO FATHER VICTOR: If you would like to appreciate Fr Victor's service to the Parish, free Parish 'Thank You' cards are available in the Parish. Please contact Maggie (07917176923). Thank you. (Father Michael).

WEEKDAY MASSES: Weekday Masses are livestreamed without a congregation. There will be no in-person attendance until further notice. Funerals are not affected.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday evening, 6pm-6.15pm and on request.

FACE COVERINGS AT MASS: In keeping with Welsh Government guidance, face coverings must be worn at Mass by adults and children aged 11 and over. The face covering may be removed in order to receive Holy Communion. By wearing a face covering you will be helping to protect others.

HOW TO PRE-BOOK SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE: To book a place at Sunday Masses, please contact **Madeline Ahearne** on phone or email (01792 361194; madelineolss@aol.com) or send an email to the Parish email address mumbles@menevia.org. Please provide your name, the number attending Mass, and contact phone number when you book. This record will be held for 14 days solely for track and trace (COVID-19).

LIVESTREAMED MASSES: Masses are livestreamed from our Parish every day. For a link to livestreamed Masses please go to our Parish website www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk and click "Livestream" on the menu bar. You can also find us on **YouTube** by searching for **Our Lady Star of the Sea Mumbles**.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Don Mason, Martin Garry, Eileen Kennedy.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE: Monday, 18th January 2021 at 7pm on Zoom. Details will be sent to all via email.

ONLINE SCRIPTURE DAY OF REFLECTION: 'The Book of Revelation: Signs and Symbols for Understanding the Bible' by Rev. Fr. Timothy McGrath, Saturday 16th January 2021, 11am-1pm. The talk will be livestreamed via YouTube and can be accessed from the DOMSEC website (www.domsec.org.uk) by clicking 'Livestream' on the top menu bar.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: In the Winter Season of Ordinary Time, we are invited to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those who Care for Them; Victims of Human Trafficking and Those Who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Our local Catholic Primary school is **St David's** on West Cross Avenue, a welcoming and happy school, where children are cared for and nurtured to develop, educationally, spiritually and emotionally. The contact details for St David's are at the top of this Newsletter - do get in touch to secure a place for your child.

st.davids.primaryschool@swansea-edunet.gov.uk or Phone on 01792 512212 or follow us on Twitter: @stdavidscps.

SUNDAY OFFERING: Last Sunday: £775 (includes standing orders)

DONATION TO LIVESTREAM: £50

Reflection for the Baptism of the Lord (Year B)

God Still Speaks to Us in His Son

After he was found in the Temple by his parents, Christ went home with them and he lived under their authority (Lk 1:51). Following this, not much is said about his childhood. The event of Christ's baptism then introduces us into his public life and ministry.

Jesus is the Son of God: At Jesus' baptism, a voice was heard from heaven which said, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you' (Mk 1:11). The Scriptures teach that heaven is God's throne and earth is his footstool (Is 66:1). The voice that spoke could only be that of God the Father. Thus, God publicly announced Christ's divine Sonship to the world which he came to save. Also, before the baptism of Jesus, all the prophets of old were speaking in metaphors about the divine Sonship of Jesus. His baptism then became the first time when his divine Sonship would be clearly affirmed by God himself (1 Jn 5:9). Also, at the baptism of Jesus, the three persons of the Holy Trinity were present. God the Father spoke from heaven at the baptism of God the Son on whom God the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove. Thus, the saving mission of Christ which was inaugurated at his baptism is the joint mission of the Holy Trinity (CCC 689).

Christ is One with Us: The baptism of John the Baptist was for the remission of sins (Mt 3:5). However, when Christ received baptism from the hands of John, it was not to be cleansed of any sin of his. Rather, he accepted baptism in order to identify with our humanity which has been weakened by sin. The presence of sin and evil in the world has thus weakened our will to obey God. Yet, the public mission of Christ which started at his baptism and culminated at his resurrection has strengthened our will to obey God. By his baptism, Christ identifies himself with the sin of the people. Thus, John speaks of him as the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29). At his baptism, Christ identifies with us in our desire to do God's will. He knows that this desire meets with obstacles which, at times, are beyond our control.

Jesus Inaugurates Christian Baptism: When Jesus entered the River Jordan at his baptism, he sanctified the waters that would be used to baptise those who believe in him. He also commissioned his disciples to baptise believers into the Trinity (Mt 28:19). Our baptism then becomes the means through which we begin to share in the blessed life of the Holy Trinity. As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus today, we also recall the days of our baptism, the days on which we became children of God who have been claimed for his glory.

Symbolically, this sacrament was prefigured in the Old Testament when God made the Israelites to pass through the Red Sea unharmed (Ex 14). Similarly, Jesus also entered the waters of the River Jordan and came out victorious. We who have been baptised are also assured of crossing over death into new life in Christ.

God Still Speaks to Us: It is also profoundly significant that at the baptism of Jesus, the heavens opened, and the voice of God was heard speaking to humans. Centuries before the birth of Jesus, prophecy had ended in Israel and the Jews supposed that God had stopped speaking to his people. At the baptism of Jesus, the heavens were opened once again to reassure us that God still speaks to his people. However, he no longer speaks through prophets. He now speaks to us directly through his Son (Heb 1:1-2). There are occasions when we also, like the Jews, suppose that God no longer hears our prayer. We feel as if he has abandoned us to our struggles and we now carry our burdens alone. At his baptism, Christ went down into the river and came right up. This symbolises his death and resurrection. It also reminds us of our own resurrection from the dead on the last day when Christ will hold us by the hand and take us into the wonderful light of the resurrection. May the waters of baptism which claimed us for God grant us the peace and favour of God. Amen.
